

● (2210)

I want to recall to the House that I believe it was Mackenzie King who said that there really was no difference between the Liberal Party and the CCF Party, that the CCF Party was really composed of Liberals in a hurry. After listening to the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain, I must change that particular observation because the last three or four speakers of that Party have been dealing with the 1880s, the 1885s and the 1887s. The New Democratic Party are making the Liberals look like people who are full pace runners in comparison. As my colleague, the Hon. Member for Provencher (Mr. Epp), pointed out quite accurately some time ago, the NDP are really the true reactionaries of our time. It has never changed its point of view. It repeats and repeats the catechism which was originated with their Party under the tutelage of the trade union movement in 1961: never an original thought. Do not address the issue before us but stay with the same old—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Order, please. Is the Hon. Member speaking to the motions?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Yes.

Mr. Epp: It sounded good to me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am pleased to hear that. Will the Hon. Member please proceed.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: That is why, Mr. Speaker, you hold high office. You are so observant. You are able to see that I am dealing in relevance with this particular set of motions in pointing out the fact that in terms of the approach which the Hon. Members of the New Democratic Party take with respect to these particular amendments, they are the true reactionaries. You, Mr. Speaker, understand the relevance of that because you have been subjected to their various speeches. They like to go back in history. I can go back in history, too. I can refer to the fact that the Crowsnest Pass rates are regarded as part of the Magna Carta of western Canada. In fact, I looked at that Magna Carta just to make sure and refresh my memory as to the relevance of that document to the debate today.

It is interesting, Mr. Speaker, because you will understand that what we are dealing with now is the question of accountability of the railways. One of our amendments was in fact accepted in committee. It was a very important amendment which forced the railways to have an accountability before the CTC with respect to its operations under the provisions of this Act. The Hon. Members of the New Democratic Party have raised some examples of past history, so I thought I would look back to the Magna Carta itself to see whether or not if we went back to 1215 in the time of King John and the barons we could find out exactly what happened then which may have had an influence on the accountability of the railroads.

I am fascinated at the relevance of this document, Mr. Speaker. I draw to the attention of the Minister that the Magna Carta says, and I quote:

Western Grain Transportation Act

No constable or other royal official shall take corn or other movable goods from any man without immediate payment, unless the seller voluntarily offers postponement of this.

The Government should listen to what the Magna Carta says as to the basic rules of our democratic system in the British tradition, because what it is proposing with this legislation is very much like taking the farmers' corn without payment. I quote again:

No sheriff, royal official, or other person shall take horses or carts for transport from any free man, without his consent.

The Minister should listen to this because that is what the Government is doing with the transportation vehicle—the railways—with respect to the grain producers in Canada today. I quote again:

No town or person shall be forced to build bridges over rivers except those with an ancient obligation to do so.

I would like to say one thing, Mr. Speaker. If one looks at the railways today and the obligations they put on towns and persons in our society with respect to maintenance of their railways, their crossings, the snow removal obligations these agents, in the case of the CNR, the Crown, puts upon towns and persons in our society, one can understand that the barons who went up and demanded equal rights, justice and democracy from King John knew what they were talking about. It is too bad that the Government does not understand the relevance of the Magna Carta as it affects this particular legislation.

I want simply to deal with the provisions here because we are talking about the obligations of the CPR and the railways to the people of Canada under this particular legislation. The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) and other Members of the New Democratic Party have made reference to the fact that they are the protectors of the Crowsnest Pass rate. They say that they are not working hand and glove with the Government. They do not support the Government in any way in this regard. When one looks at the question of how much the railways are going to be receiving with respect to the transportation of grain, and at the whole question of accountability and how the profits are to be applied in the amendment which is brought forward by the New Democratic Party, one has to consider the full implication of what that Party did today. That Party brought in its own amendment with respect to the safety net.

Mr. Mazankowski: They said that the Crow must go.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The Hon. Members of that Party did not even have the good grace, Mr. Speaker, to use their own typewriter. They took the Government motion which is tabled. They went to a photo copy machine and copied exactly word for word the proposal of the Government with respect to the safety net provisions.

The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain will probably not understand this because he attended exactly zero of the hearings with respect to this matter of the Transport Committee. He never appeared. He never showed his face once. At least the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-St. James (Mr. Keeper)